

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02

PRS-01 EURE-00 /119 W

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P 281600Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3040

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 1010

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, CA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: AMBASSADOR'S VANCOUVER SPEECH ON
ENVIRONMENT

1. VANCOUVER SUN OF SEPTEMBER 27 CARRIED NEWS ACCOUNT BY
TOM BARRETT OF AMBASSADOR'S SEPTEMBER 25 SPEECH AT VANCOUVER
INSTITUTE ON THE ENVIRONMENT. STORY (ON PAGE 33) WAS
CAPTIONED "B.C. "MUST ACCEPT OIL SPILL RISK " AND COVERED TWO
MAJOR TOPICS THROUGH EXTENSIVE USE OF QUOTES: PUGET SOUND
OIL SHIPMENTS AND THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT.

2. PUGET SOUND: BARRETT EMPHASIZED AMBASSADOR S VIEW THAT
OIL POLLUTION PROBLEMS ARE A "SHARED RESPONSIBILITY," THAT WHILE
A NUMBER OF MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE OIL
SPILLS IN THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA THE DANGER IS SOMETHING
CANADA AND THE US MUST SHARE TOGETHER, AND THAT "YOU'LL HAVE
TO ACCEPT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF RISK." AMBASSADOR'S POINT ON
ACCESS BY FOREIGN CLAIMANTS TO OIL-SPILL CONTINGENCY FUNDS WAS
ALSO NOTED WITH COMMENT THAT AMBASSADOR WARNED "CANADA MIGHT
NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION IN ALL CASES UNLESS THE US IS GRANTED
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SIMILAR PRIVILEGES."

3. GREAT LAKES: BARRETT WROTE THAT AMBASSADOR SAID IT IS UNREALISTIC TO BELIEVE THAT THE US COULD HAVE COMPLETED CLEANUP JOB BY DEADLINE SET IN AGREEMENT, BUT THAT THE JOB SHOULD BE FINISHED IN 1981. BARRETT ALSO REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR CONGRATULATED CANADA ON ITS CLEANUP EFFORTS.

4. FINAL TOPIC COVERED BY BARRETT WAS AMBASSADOR'S "CRITICISM" OF GOC'S APPROVAL OF BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING, "SAYING THAT NOT ENOUGH CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO US INTERESTS BEFORE THE DECISION WAS MADE."

5. THE PROVINCE OF SEPTEMBER 27 CARRIED SHORT NEWS ACCOUNT ON PAGE 8, TITLED "U.S. ANNOYED, ENVOY STATES." ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, AMBASSADOR SAID CANADA SHOULD IMPROVE ITS PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF FEDERAL PROJECTS AND CRITICIZED "SHORT ADVANCE NOTICE" ON BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING OPERATIONS. STORY ALSO COVERED POINT ON ACCESS TO COMPENSATION FOR OIL SPILL VICTIMS AND SAID THAT AMBASSADOR INDICATED US IS NOT SATISFIED WITH AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION CANADA HAS OFFERED IN EVENT OF BEAUFORT SEA SPILL. IN FINAL POINT, THE PROVINCE WROTE THAT AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THAT LOS NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROVIDE THE BEST SOLUTION TO ARCTIC POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

6. PRESS CLIPPINGS BEING MAILED TO EMBASSY AND DEPT (ROUSE).

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ENVIRONMENT, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VANCOU01010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760365-1230
From: VANCOUVER
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760910/aaaaaigc.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <11 JAN 2005 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: AMBASSADOR'S VANCOUVER SPEECH ON ENVIRONMENT
TAGS: SOPN, CA, (ENDERS, THOMAS O)
To: STATE
OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006